REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the thoroughness with which the Examiner has examined the above-identified application. The Examiner's comments are concise, clear, and well articulated. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's study and comments of this application. Applicants have endeavored to address the Examiner's comments with this amendment. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendments to the claims above and the remarks below.

Restriction Requirement Response

Responsive to a restriction requirement, Applicants have elected Group I, claims 1-12, 15 and 16. Applicants cancel herein claims 13-14 drawn to a doorframe.

In the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include certain reference signs mentioned in the description, to wit: 41 and 414' in reference to Fig. 14C.

Applicants note that the reference sign 414 (without the prime) is present in the applicants' copy of the drawings; however, in these informal drawings, it is handwritten and quite small. Applicants have ordered formal drawings, and submit them herein and under separate cover to the Draftsman. Applicants also submit herewith a revised Fig. 14C to more clearly designate reference sign 414. Reference sign 41 has been deleted since it is not delineated in the specification.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(4) because the reference character "70" has been used to designate both

"support strut" and "U-shaped channel". Additionally, the reference character "102" has been used to designate "raceway tube" and "top portion".

Applicants concur and have revised the specification (p.10, l.30) to identify a U-shaped channel "76", leaving the support strut with reference designator "70". Fig. 5 has been modified to reflect this change.

Applicants have also modified the specification to correctly identify the top portion of the C-shaped locking mechanism as reference designator 110. Fig. 7 correctly refers to the top portion as reference designator 110.

In the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure for certain formalities which the applicants have addressed herein. On page 9, line 25, the applicants have modified the specification to use the term "electroluminescent strip" rather than "illuminators". On page 10, lines 19-20, applicants have added the term "surface" to be consistent with the use of reference number 62 on page 10, lines 18-19. On page 14, line 24, the applicants have modified the term "two-conductor wire 30" to "wiring 30" to be consistent with the use of reference number 310 in line 9 of page 14.

The Examiner has also objected to the disclosure because there is no brief description of figures 3A-3C and 14A-14C provided, as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.74. Applicants have amended the description of Figs. 3 and 14 to be directed to Figs. 3A-3C and 14A-14C, respectively.

In the Title

The Examiner has commented that the title of the invention is not adequately descriptive. The Examiner has suggested the title: "HOLLOW DOORFRAME INCLUDING ELECTROLUMINESCENT ILLUMINATION SYSTEM." Applicants agree with the suggested title change, and have revised the title accordingly.

In the Abstract

Applicants have updated the abstract to include the title change made above. A substitute page abstract is attached herewith.

Allowable Subject Matter - Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 6, 8 and 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would allow these claims if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and an intervening claims. Applicants have added new claims 17-19, which represent claims 6, 8 and 12, respectively, in independent form. Applicants submit that newly added claims 17-19 are in a condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Issues

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morris (U.S. Patent No. 6,058,635) in view of Chien (U.S. Patent No. 5,775,016). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Morris teaches a doorframe construction that includes a hollow, generally inverted U-shaped doorframe member having a pair of side channels and emergency light sign units disposed within the hollow doorframe members. Morris, col. 2, ll.20-

39. Morris also discloses apertures (holes) within the side channels and lintel channel where the emergency light sign units are mounted and may be visibly seen. Morris, Figs. 1-3. However, Morris does not teach, disclose, or suggest using electroluminescent strips, or mounting the electroluminescent strips within a U-shaped channel formed on, or integrally with, the side panels and lintel panel, to form a raceway for enclosing the electroluminescent strips, such that the illumination peripherally outlines the exit.

The present invention teaches a U-shaped channel as part of the side face, and mounted or formed about the doorframe's periphery. This is not the U-shaped doorframe; rather, it is a channel or raceway attached to, or integrally formed with, the side faces of the doorframe for mounting the electroluminescent strips about its periphery. Fig. 2.

> The proposed lighting system includes three main components: a) *an egress doorframe with integrally formed illuminators that outline available exits*, which are generally used in public places during emergencies; b) *raceways of electroluminescent strips for illuminating the exit pathway to the points of egress*; and c) a bypass doorframe for continuing the electrical connections of the electroluminescent strips around doorways that are not points of egress.

Specification, p.7, l.29 – p.8, l.4 (emphasis added).

In one embodiment, the channel is formed with the doorframe. In another embodiment, the channel is attached to the doorframe.

> *An outwardly facing U-shaped channel 30 is shown as part of the side face.* Preferably, this U-shaped channel is integrally formed from the side face, as depicted in Fig. 2. The U-shaped channel 30 is designed with an appropriate width to allow for an electroluminescent strip 32 to be placed and secured therein.

Specification, p.9, ll.1-5 (emphasis added).

> In another embodiment, the U-shaped channel is not integrally formed with the egress doorframe; rather, it is attached to the flat side face of each frame member. In this embodiment, a channel, a raceway tube, and an electroluminescent strip secured within the channel are no longer recessed within the egress doorframe's side faces. Fig. 4 depicts a cross-sectional view of a portion of an egress doorframe 60 having a flat side face surface 62 with a channel 64 attached thereto.

Specification, p.10, ll.14-19.

The combination of Morris and Chien do not teach or disclose having a U-shaped channel mounted on, or formed integrally with, the side faces and/or the lintel face for mounting electroluminescent strips peripherally about the doorframe. Morris' design teaches incandescent lighting, which is not designed or mountable about the entire periphery of the doorframe. Chien teaches electroluminescent strips that are not attached to doorframes. In fact, neither prior art teaches a modified doorframe adapted to receive electroluminescent strips inside a U-shaped channel attached to, or integrally formed with, the doorframe side faces and lintel face. Nor does either prior art teach a peripheral illumination about a doorframe as taught, suggested, and disclosed by the present invention. The present invention is designed with this attribute.

> The U-shaped channel in each frame member allows the electroluminescent strip to be recessed in the front faces of each frame member continuously around the egress doorframe, such that when power is applied to the electroluminescent strips, the egress doorframe is illuminated contiguously about or within its maximum periphery.

Specification, p.9, ll.7-10.

In the Examiner's opinion, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the claimed invention was made that a U-shaped channel to the doorframe of Morris would have flown naturally from Chien, insomuch as Chien

suggests providing a groove in a floor tile arranged to accommodate shoulders of an electroluminescent strip housing. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Neither prior art design teaches a U-shaped channel attached to, or integrally formed with, a doorframe. Chien does suggest a groove in a floor tile; however this is not a U-shaped channel integrally formed with a doorframe, nor is it a U-shaped channel *attached to* a doorframe. Applicants respectfully submit that the suggestion of a groove in a floor tile, which places the electroluminescent strip level with the floor surface, is distinctly different from the attachment of a channel to a doorframe that sets the electroluminescent strip above the doorframe surface. A channel attached to the doorframe is not a groove within the doorframe.

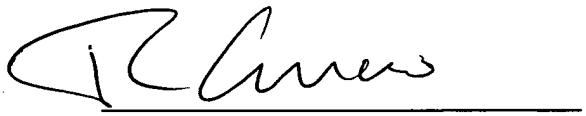
Moreover, the prior art does not teach or disclose attaching a channel of any kind whatsoever to a doorframe. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 15 to more distinctly claim the channel feature and the peripheral nature of its placement in the present design, in order to more clearly distinguish the present design over the cited prior art of Morris and Chien.

With respect to claim 15, applicants submit that neither prior art teaches the bypass feature of the present invention, wherein the illumination system is capable of bypassing certain non-egress designated doors and illuminating only the exit passageways. This is accomplished by a bypass doorframe in combination with the illumination system. Claim 15 requires "a bypass doorframe including bypass side frame members and a bypass overhead lintel, each having metal channel raceways inside for receiving electrical wiring, said channel raceways carrying said electrical

wiring in from an aperture through one of said bypass frame members through said bypass overhead lintel and out an aperture of another of said bypass frame members." The electroluminescent strips of Chien are shown to be contiguous about a floor pathway. Neither Chien or Morris teach an illumination system that combines modified doorframes for electroluminescent illumination about the doorframe periphery with modified doorframes for maintaining electrical connectivity but bypassing the illumination portion of the circuit. Applicants respectfully submit that the stated prior art does not teach, suggest, or disclose any such combination.

It is respectfully submitted that the application remains in a condition where allowance of the entire case is proper. Reconsideration and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Name: Barbara Browne Date: February 16, 2006 Signature: